



OCT 06 2004

Patent  
et No.: P99047US2A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re Application of:**

Jamie J. McNutt, Nicole L. Squire, and  
William J. O'Briskie

Serial No.: 10/068,411  
Filed: February 6, 2002  
For: LARGE SIZED CARBON BLACK  
PARTICLES TO REDUCE NEEDED  
MIXING ENERGY OF HIGH  
HARDNESS, STIFF TIRE  
COMPOSITIONS

Art Unit: 1714  
Examiner: Wyrozebski-Lee

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231**

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/068,411, and is filed in response to the Office Action mailed April 5, 2004, in which all claims were finally rejected. Applicants request a 3-month extension to the period for response. Please charge deposit account number 06-0925 in the amounts of \$980.00 to cover the fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a), and \$770.00 to cover the fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(c). Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to the same.

**Please amend the application as follows:**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

October 4, 2004 Signed Meredith Palmer  
Date Meredith E. Palmer, Reg. No. 47,839